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COUNTY
one
FUTURE

Planning and Development Department
LONG RANGE PLANNING DIVISION

SAFETY ELEMENT AMENDMENT WILDFIRE INFORMATION & POLICIES

County Board of Supervisors

July 11, 2023

Background

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Three Concurrent Safety Element Updates:

1. Wildfire Information & Policy Updates
2. Evacuation Modeling and Planning Project
3. Climate Adaptation and Resilience updates



Purpose

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Purpose of Safety Element Update (SEU):

1. Meet legislative requirements
2. Incorporate 2022 Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan
3. Meet legislative requirements addressed in CAL FIRE's Safety Element Assessment



1. Legislative Updates

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- SB 1241(2012)
 - ▣ Address fire risk in State Responsibility Areas (SRA) and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ).
 - ▣ Findings for approving subdivision maps (addressed in 2015)
- SB 1035 (2018)
 - ▣ Update SE at least every 8 years with fire hazard, climate adaptation, and resiliency strategies.
- SB 99 (2019)
 - ▣ SE must identify residential developments with only one emergency evacuation route.



2. Incorporate MJHMP

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- On April 4, 2023, BOS adopted the 2022 Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- BOS direction to incorporate the 2022 MJHMP into the Safety Element
 - ▣ County is eligible for a greater portion of State disaster funding.



3. Safety Element Assessment

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- Safety Element Assessment
 - ▣ CAL FIRE standardized assessment tool
 - ▣ Determine if Safety Elements meet fire safety planning requirements (Gov. Code 65302)
 - ▣ Recommendations to mitigate or reduce wildfire risk



Overview of Safety Element Updates

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Safety Element Table of Contents

- I. Abstract
 - II. Introduction
 - III. General Geography and Geology
 - IV. Geologic and Seismic Hazards
 - V. Conclusions and Recommendations managing Geologic/Seismic Hazards
 - Evacuation Planning
 - VI. Fire Hazard and Fire Services
 - VII. Flood Control
 - Evacuation Planning
 - VIII. County Office of Emergency Services
 - Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan
 - IX. Appendix
- Citations



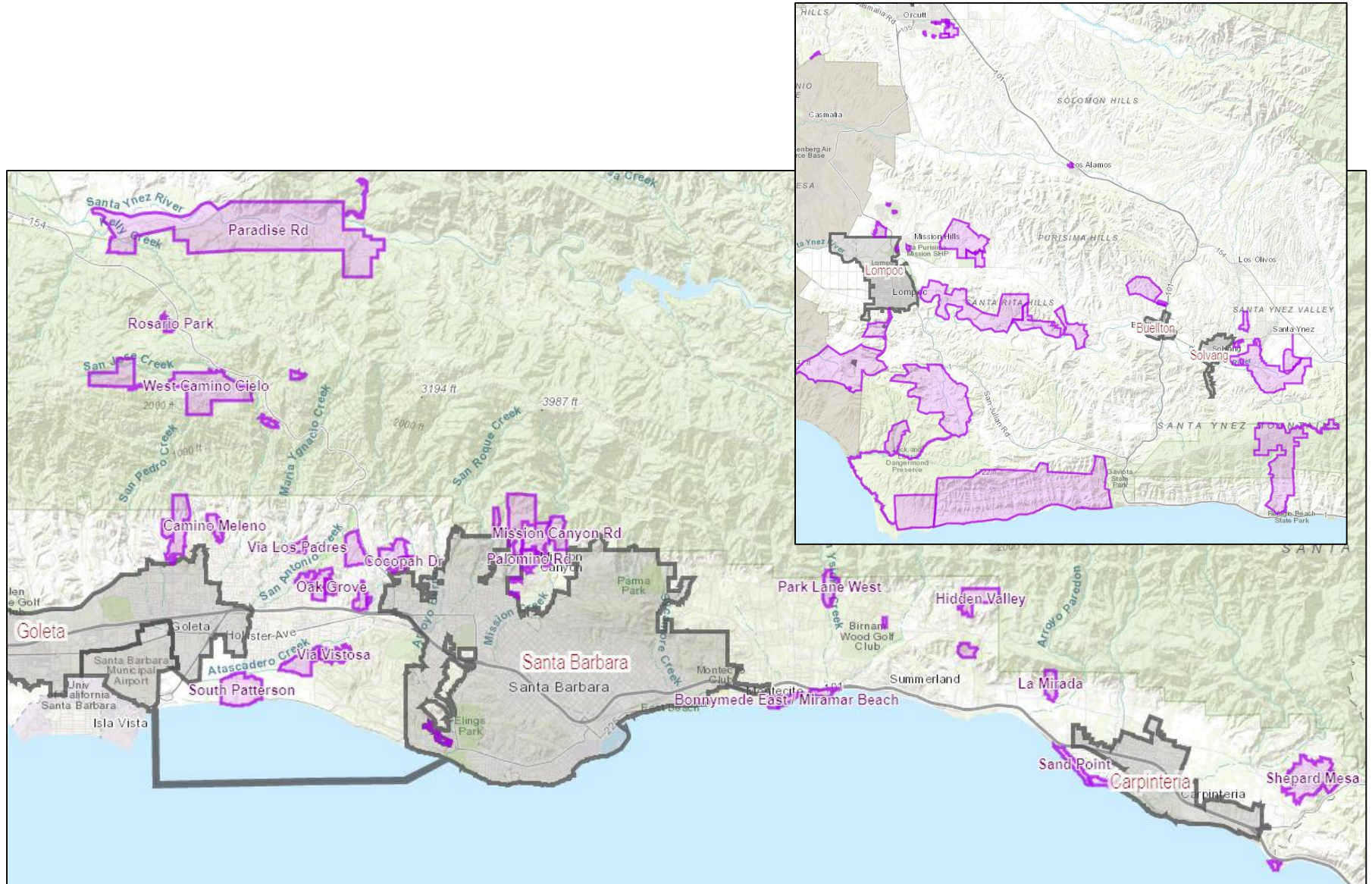
Summary of Updates

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- Static/Online Map(s);
- Updated Wildfire Data/Analysis;
- Wildfire Plans & Services;
- Public Outreach Programs;
- Risk Reduction Measures, Tools, & Programs;
- Evacuation Information;
- Single Egress Neighborhoods (SB 99);
- Relevant Codes & Regulations;
- Policies & Actions; &
- Citations



Single Egress Neighborhoods (SB99)



Wildfire Policy Changes

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- Comprehensive update to wildfire policies and actions
- Largely reflect standards and regulations with which the County already chooses to, or must, comply
 - ▣ Building Code
 - ▣ Fire Code
 - ▣ State Fire Safe Regulations



Safety Element Wildfire Amendments



Project and Review Timeline



Initial Review

Staff met with CAL FIRE on review process. CAL FIRE provided initial SE Assessment evaluating existing info and policies



Drafting Amendments

Staff work to draft amendments



Submit to State BOF

Submit to BOF at least 90 days prior to BOS adoption.



State BOF Review

BOF's Resource Protection Committee Hearing. No official comments provided to the County



Public Hearings

*MPC- May 17th
CPC- May 31st
BOS- July 11th*

Staff Work on Amendments

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- LRP reviewed OPR's Fire Hazard Planning Technical Advisory Guide
- LRP met with/corresponded frequently with County Fire to:
 - ▣ Understand existing County regulations & policies
 - ▣ Present research and policy examples
 - ▣ Coordinate policy development
- Review and feedback from P&D Dev Rev, OEM, and Parks



Environmental Review

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- Exempt from CEQA
- § 15061(b)(3) – No possibility of significant effect on the environment
- Notice of Exemption –Attachment B



Fire Hazard Severity Zone Maps

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- State Board of Forestry (BOF)
 - ▣ Currently updating FHSZ maps for the State Responsibility Area (SRA)
- Recommended Action “d”
 - ▣ Incorporate the FHSZ maps for the State Responsibility Areas into the Safety Element, once the maps are adopted by the BOF



Recommendations

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Approve the recommended actions listed on page 1 of today's Board Agenda Letter.



Thank you

Questions?

Safety Element Update Project Website:
<https://www.countyofsb.org/762/Safety-Element-Update>



Extra Slides

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Safety Element Online Map:

<https://sbcopad.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=e23b50981c344a15b48de8234571d9e1>

